

03560.003343



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Ryo KURODA et al. ) : Examiner: J. S. Ruggles  
Application No.: 10/648,317 ) : Group Art Unit: 1756  
Filed: August 27, 2003 ) : Confirmation No.: 3665  
For: NEAR-FIELD PHOTOMASK AND NEAR-FIELD ) : Allowed: January 12, 2006  
EXPOSURE APPARATUS INCLUDING THE )  
PHOTOMASK (As Amended) ) : March 7, 2006

**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to further examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: